IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, prenumbered line 24, to page 17, prenumbered line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The processing region set-up section 31 sequentially extracts processing regions subject to motion-blurring mitigation processing based on the region selection information HA and supplies the detection section 33, the motion-blurring-mitigated object image generation section 40, and the output section 50 with processing region information HZ that indicates these processing regions. Further, it utilizes a motion vector [[MVO]] MV detected by the detection section 33, which will be described later, to update the region selection information HA, thereby causing a processing region subject to mitigation of motion blurring to be tracked in such a manner that it can be met to a movement of a motion object.

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, prenumbered line 25, to page 22, prenumbered line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is to be noted that there may be some cases where a pixel which exists on the side of a moving region in a covered background region or on the side of the moving region in an uncovered background region is decided to be of the covered background region or the uncovered background region respectively even if no background components are contained in it. For example, pixel location P21 in FIG. 9 is decided to be still as a result of still/moving decision on frames #n-2 and #n-1 but to be moving as a result of still/moving decision on frames #n-1 and #n and so may be decided to be of the covered background region even if no background components are contained in it. Another pixel location P17 is decided to be moving as a result of still/moving decision on frames #n and #n+1 but to be still as a result of still/moving decision on frames #n+1 and #n+2 and so may be decided to be of the uncovered background region even if no background components are contained in it.

Therefore, correcting each of the pixels on the side of a moving region in a covered background region and each of the pixels on the side of a moving region in an uncovered background region into a pixel of a ~~movement quantity~~ <u>moving</u> region allows region decision on each pixel to be accurately performed. By thus performing region decision, region information AR that indicates which one of a still region, a covered background region, an uncovered background region, and a moving region each pixel belongs to is generated and supplied to the mixture ratio calculation section 42, the foreground/background separation section 43, and the motion blurring adjustment section 44.

Please replace the paragraph at page 23, prenumbered line 25, to page 24, prenumbered line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

If, here, a frame period is short and so it may be assumed that a moving object that corresponds to a foreground is rigid and moving at the same speed in this frame period, a mixture ratio α of a pixel that belongs to a mixed region changes linearly in accordance with a change in position of the pixel. In such a case, a gradient θ of the ideal mixture ratio α in the mixed region can be expressed as an inverse number of a movement quantity v in a frame period of the moving object that corresponds to the foreground as shown in FIG. 12. That is, the mixture ratio α has a value of "1" in the still <u>(background)</u> region and a value of "0" in the moving <u>(foreground)</u> region and changes in a range of "0" through "1" in the mixed region.